GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:61
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
National Food Security Act
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments have expressed difficulties in implementing the National Food Security Act;
(b) if so, the details of such State Governments and response of the Union Government thereto;
(c) whether the Union Government has convened a meeting of all the drought affected States in this regard;
(d) if so, the outcome thereof along with assistance provided by the Union Government to drought affected States; and
(e) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to ensure supply of free foodgrains to drought affected States and also implement welfare schemes as per Centre''s Drought Manual and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) of STARRED QUESTION NO. 61 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01-03-2016 IN THE LOK SABHA
(a) to (b): 28 States and Union Territories have begun implementing the National Food Security Act based on preparedness and identification of eligible beneficiaries. The remaining States/UTs are at various Stages of preparatory activities for implementation of the Act. The list of States/UTs implementing the NFSA is at Annexure A.
(c) to (d) : A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 857 of 2015 was filed on 14.12.2015 before the Supreme Court by Petitioner Swaraj Abhiyan. The petitioner petitioned the Court for issuing the direction which inter-alia include providing necessary relief and compensation for the drought affected States, implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 and generation of adequate employment under MGNREGA. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its order dated 18.01.2016 in this Writ Petition, meeting was convened by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare with concerned Central Government Ministries and the States on 25th and 27th January, 2016 respectively. Based on the information received from concerned Ministries/ Departments and State Governments, an Affidavit was filed in Hon'ble Supreme Court on 10 February, 2016. The case last came up for hearing on 12.02.2016 and Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed for listing the matter for final disposal after three weeks. The matter is presently subjudice.
Government has decided under section 3(4) of MGNREGA, to provide up to 50 days of additional employment (over and above 100 days), in notified drought affected blocks in the financial year 2015-16.
In addition the following interventions have been approved in order to save standing Kharif crops affected due to drought and deficit rainfall during Kharif 2015.
1. Implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme for protective irrigation of crops with an allocation of Rs 100 crore.
2. Enhancement of extant ceiling on seed subsidy by 50% for distribution in drought notified districts.
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3. Implementation of intervention on perennial horticulture crops with an additional allocation of Rs. 150 crore under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
4. Implementation of Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an allocation of Rs. 50 crore.
On the request of State/UT, the Government of India makes additional allocation of foodgrains for those affected by natural calamities at MSP and MSP derived prices for wheat and rice respectively applicable for the relevant marketing season. During the current year, only Maharashtra Government has requested for additional allocation of foodgrains for the drought affected people in the State. Based on the request of the State Government this Department has made an allocation of 1.63 lakh tons of rice and 2.44 lakh tons of wheat to the State Government as per the existing policy.
(e) The matter is presently subjudice in Supreme Court.
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